

Applicant : Gregory P. Brown et al.
Appln. No. : 10/694,258
Page : 2

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of indicating a steered position of a steerable wheel of a vehicle comprising:

providing a wheel position indicator having an on state and an off state, the wheel position indicator providing a visual indication of ~~the~~ a steered position of the steerable wheel when the wheel position indicator is in the on state, the wheel position indicator not providing a visual indication of the steered position of the steerable wheel when the wheel position indicator is in the off state;

placing the wheel position indicator into the on state when the vehicle is in a predetermined driving condition; and

placing the wheel position indicator into the off state when the vehicle is not in the predetermined driving condition.

2. (original) The method of indicating the position of the steerable wheel of the vehicle of claim 1, wherein:

the predetermined driving condition is an off road driving condition.

3. (original) The method of indicating the position of the steerable wheel of the vehicle of claim 1, wherein:

the predetermined driving condition occurs when the steerable wheel has a slip angle above or equal to a predetermined amount.

4. (currently amended) The method of indicating the position of the steerable wheel of the vehicle of claim 1, wherein:

Applicant : Gregory P. Brown et al.
Appln. No. : 10/694,258
Page : 3

the visual indication of the steered position of the steerable wheel includes a display mechanically connected to a steering column of the vehicle.

5. (original) The method of indicating the position of the steerable wheel of the vehicle of claim 1, further including:

determining a position of the steering column.

6. (original) The method of indicating the position of the steerable wheel of the vehicle of claim 1, wherein:

the visual indication includes a digital display.

7. (currently amended) The method of indicating the position of the steerable wheel of the vehicle of claim 1, wherein:

the steered position of the steerable wheel includes an angle of the steerable wheel relative to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

8. (currently amended) The method of indicating the position of the steerable wheel of the vehicle of claim 1, wherein:

the steered position of the steerable wheel includes a left or a right steered position of the steerable wheel relative to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

9. (currently amended) A wheel position indication system for a vehicle, comprising:
a steerable wheel;

a wheel position indicator having an on state and an off state, the wheel position indicator providing a visual indication of the a steered position of the steerable wheel when the

Applicant : Gregory P. Brown et al.
Appln. No. : 10/694,258
Page : 4

wheel position indicator is in the on state, the wheel position indicator not providing a visual indication of the steered position of the steerable wheel when the wheel position indicator is in the off state;

a controller selectively altering the wheel position indicator between the on state and the off state;

wherein the controller places the wheel position indicator into the on state when the vehicle is in an off road condition and places the wheel position indicator into the off state when the vehicle is not in the off road condition.

10. (currently amended) The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 9, wherein:

the visual indication of the steered position of the steerable wheel includes a display mechanically connected to a steering column of the vehicle.

11. (currently amended) The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 9, further including:

a shutter wheel having apertures adjacent a periphery of the shutter wheel, the shutter wheel being adapted to be connected to a steering column;

wherein the controller communicates with sensors reading light emitted through the apertures of the shutter wheel to determine the steered position of the steerable wheel.

12. (original) The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 9, wherein: the visual indication includes a digital display.

13. (currently amended) The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 9, wherein:

Applicant : Gregory P. Brown et al.
Appln. No. : 10/694,258
Page : 5

the steered position of the steerable wheel includes an angle of the steerable wheel relative to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

14. (currently amended) The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 9, wherein:

the steered position of the steerable wheel includes a left or a right steered position of the steerable wheel relative to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

15. (currently amended) A wheel position indication system for a vehicle, comprising:
a steerable wheel;

a wheel position indicator having an on state and an off state, the wheel position indicator providing a visual indication of ~~the~~ a steered position of the steerable wheel when the wheel position indicator is in the on state, the wheel position indicator not providing a visual indication of the steered position of the steerable wheel when the wheel position indicator is in the off state;

a controller selectively altering the wheel position indicator between the on state and the off state;

wherein the controller places the wheel position indicator into the on state when the steerable wheel has a slip angle above or equal to a predetermined amount and places the wheel position indicator into the off state when the steerable wheel has a slip angle below the predetermined amount.

16. (currently amended) The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 15, wherein:

the visual indication of the steered position of the steerable wheel includes a display mechanically connected to a steering column of the vehicle.

Applicant : Gregory P. Brown et al.
Appln. No. : 10/694,258
Page : 6

17. (currently amended) The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 15, further including:

a shutter wheel having apertures adjacent a periphery of the shutter wheel, the shutter wheel being adapted to be connected to a steering column;

wherein the controller communicates with sensors reading light emitted through the apertures of the shutter wheel to determine the steered position of the steerable wheel.

18. (original) The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 15, wherein: the visual indication includes a digital display.

19. (currently amended) The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 15, wherein:

the steered position of the steerable wheel includes an angle of the steerable wheel relative to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

20. (currently amended) The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 15, wherein:

the steered position of the steerable wheel includes a left or a right steered position of the steerable wheel relative to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

21. (new) A method of indicating a steered position of a steerable wheel of a vehicle comprising:

providing a wheel position indicator having a wheel angle indication state and a wheel angle non-indication state, the wheel position indicator providing a visual indication of a steered position of the steerable wheel when the wheel position indicator is in the wheel angle indication state, the wheel position indicator not providing a visual indication of the steered

Applicant : Gregory P. Brown et al.
Appln. No. : 10/694,258
Page : 7

position of the steerable wheel when the wheel position indicator is in the wheel angle non-indication state;

placing the wheel position indicator into the wheel angle indication state in response to a mode being selected by a driver of the vehicle; and

placing the wheel position indicator into the wheel angle non-indication state when the mode is not selected by the driver of the vehicle;

wherein the wheel position indicator is configured to be in either the wheel angle indication state or the wheel angle non-indication state while the vehicle is running.

22. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein:

the mode is a driving condition mode.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein:

the driving condition mode is an off-road driving condition.

24. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein:

the wheel position indicator is able to indicate a plurality of angles of the steerable wheel relative to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

25. (new) A wheel position indication system for a vehicle, comprising:
a steerable wheel;

a wheel position indicator having a wheel angle indication state and a wheel angle non-indication state, the wheel position indicator providing a visual indication of a steered position of the steerable wheel when the wheel position indicator is in the wheel angle indication state, the wheel position indicator not providing a visual indication of the steered position of the

Applicant : Gregory P. Brown et al.
Appln. No. : 10/694,258
Page : 8

steerable wheel when the wheel position indicator is in the wheel angle non-indication state;
and

a controller selectively altering the wheel position indicator between the wheel angle indication state and the wheel angle non-indication state;

wherein the controller places the wheel position indicator into the wheel angle indication state in response to a mode selected by a driver of the vehicle and places the wheel position indicator into the wheel angle non-indication state when the mode is not selected by the driver of the vehicle; and

wherein the wheel position indicator is configured to be in either the wheel angle indication state or the wheel angle non-indication state while the vehicle is running.

26. (new) The wheel position indication system for a vehicle of claim 25, wherein:
the mode is a driving condition mode.
27. (new) The wheel position indication system for a vehicle of claim 26, wherein:
the driving condition mode is an off-road driving condition.
28. (new) The wheel position indication system for a vehicle of claim 25, wherein:
the wheel position indicator is able to indicate a plurality of angles of the steerable wheel relative to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle.